


# Meteor



# Heraut

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## Around USAG Benelux

Benelux

### Vehicle accident

A Soldier assigned to U.S. Army NATO was involved in a two-vehicle accident Feb. 6 along Rue d'Ath between Lens and Chièvres.

The cause of the early morning accident involving a moped and passenger vehicle is being investigated by Belgian police. The driver of the moped was taken to the hospital. The Soldier was uninjured.

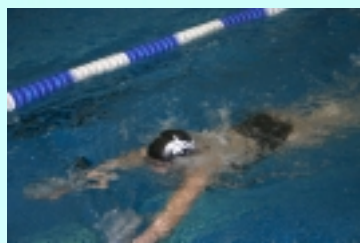
"With a multitude of vehicles sharing the roadway - tractors, bicycles, mopeds, tractor trucks and passenger vehicles, everyone driving in the Benelux should use extra caution when operating any vehicle," said Lt. Col. John G. Romero, deputy commander of USAG Benelux.

Additionally, Romero reminded drivers to be "cautious as road conditions can change frequently during winter months."

### Overseas Housing Allowance Survey

The Overseas Housing Allowance Survey is scheduled for Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands through March 2 at <https://www.perdiem.osd.mil/oha/ohasurvey> to collect utility and recurring maintenance expenses data from uniformed service members who receive OHA.

### Schinnen



### International Orcas

The Geilenkirchen Orca's team captain, Marie-Pier Aubuchon, 16, swims her way to the finish line during a regional meet held at JFC Brunssum Jan. 21. The Orca's are made-up of children ages six to 18 and from 11 different nations. For the full story, see next issue of the Tri-Border News Notes.

## Cell phone talking, driving equals trouble

Department of the Defense installations have begun implementing new cell phone restrictions for drivers on military bases.

The new regulation, published in the Federal Register in April 2005, states that anyone driving a motor vehicle on a DoD installation cannot use a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely parked or the driver is using a hands-free device.

Across the Benelux, talking on a cell phone while driving is against the law in both Belgium and The Netherlands.

"While our major campaign right now is motorcycle safety, we are starting to watch for cell phone use by people driving on the installations," said Master Sgt. Pete Marcos, area operations sergeant for the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux.

Currently there are no fines for cell phone infractions throughout installations in the Benelux. Fines are assessed by local governments.

"There is a two-point traffic violation assessment against a driver's license," he said.

Many installations have implemented the new restrictions, and the rest will implement the rules on their own schedule, said John Seibert, assistant for safety, health and fire protection for DoD. There is no deadline for installations to implement the restrictions, Seibert said, but he expects most will do so this year.

Seibert said DoD has not issued an implementation schedule.

This regulation was developed based on information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which studied driving distractions as the cause of motor vehicle accidents, Seibert said. The study found that cell phone use is the fastest growing and most visible distraction that leads to accidents.



## Provincial Visit

PHOTO: Cis Spook

Hainaut Province Governor Claude Durieux, (left) is greeted by U.S. Army Benelux Commander Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski Jan. 25 upon his arrival on Daumerie Caserne. The governor's visit included a tour at the Lens housing area, a briefing on USAG Benelux and Chièvres Garrison missions, a tour of Chièvres Air Base showing the projects completed over the past year and a forecast of future construction projects on the Air Base including a new commissary, hotel and reconstruction of the runway.

## Command allays meningitis fears

Recently, two cases of meningococcal infection have occurred in the Wuerzburg/Schweinfurt communities and an additional case in the Spangdahlem community.

Two Soldiers have died of complications stemming from a severe meningococcal blood infection and a family member from Schweinfurt died with spinal meningitis.

The meningococcal bacteria in all three cases was *Neisseria meningitidis*.

To give the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux community the most up-to-date facts, alleviate possible concerns, answer questions, and prevent further incidents the following information is provided by the Europe:

### What is *Neisseria meningitidis*?

*Neisseria meningitidis* is a type of bacteria that may be found in healthy people's throats. In some communities as many as one in five people may carry this bacteria without symptoms, though they usually only carry the bacteria for short periods.

### What are the symptoms of Meningococcal Disease?

Symptoms of meningococcal infection

typically develop 2-10 days after exposure. Only very rarely does this bacteria cause serious illness. Individuals with these symptoms should be seen by a health care provider right away. The primary disease processes caused by *N. meningitidis* are:

1. Meningococcemia (blood-borne bacterial infection): Onset of fever, chills, and feeling unusually weak and tired. A rash may be present, often on the hands and feet. Cool and clammy skin or leg and feet pain may accompany above symptoms.

2. Meningococcal meningitis (infection of the spinal cord lining): Sudden onset of high fever, stiff neck and/or shoulders, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or mental confusion and sleepiness. A rash may be present, often involving the hands and feet. In babies, the only signs of this illness may be acting more tired than usual, acting more irritable than usual, and eating less than usual.

### How is this bacteria spread?

*N. meningitidis* is not a highly contagious organism. It is spread through respiratory means (sneeze, cough), but it can also be spread through the saliva. Close contacts of people who have meningococcal disease include those who have had prolonged physical contact (in a room together greater than 4 hours), or those who might have kissed, shared eating utensils, a cigarette, or a water bottle with someone who is infected.

### Should close contacts be treated?

Yes, close contacts of infected people should be treated with a dose of antibiotics as soon as possible to prevent the remote possibility of bacterial transmission.

### Where can I get more information?

- Your Health care provider is an ideal source for information this disease.
- DSN 423-3321 Civilian 065 44 3321
- <http://www.hqusaar.army.mil/medalert/>





## 39th Sig. Bn. opens Chièvres Network Service Center

The 39th Signal Battalion in coordination with Garrison Benelux Community will begin consolidating of email and file servers within the new Local Processing Center at Caserne Daumerie, Chièvres, Belgium. Local technical support and system administrators will be working closely with our community customers to capture current and future data requirements in order to move into the new USAREUR enterprise management environment.

"The planning stages of the new processing center are now complete. The new facility is fully operational and is co-located within the Chièvres Network Service Center," said Lt. Col. Thomas J. Mahoney, battalion commander. "The Local Processing Center Benelux (LPC-B) is configured and prepared to begin user customer data migration. We continue to work with our customers to establish or modify existing Service Support Agreements prior to migrating the customer into the LPC-B."

The LPC-B will work closely with the Chièvres, Brussels, Shape and Schinnen communities to ensure minimum disruption for our customers."

## Army recruiting for physician assistants

By Ann Erickson

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Army is short about 100 physician assistants and is stepping up attempts to recruit both civilians and Soldiers to do the job.

This is the first time that the Army Medical Department, or AMEDD, has recruited certified civilian physician assistants to join the Army, said Capt. James Jones, Interservice Physician Assistant Program manager. He said the Army's modularity and high operations tempo contributed to this change.

"We have a recruiting mission to obtain 20 civilian physician assistants this year, but this is likely to rise to 60," he said.

The Army offers qualified officers, warrant officers and enlisted Soldiers an educational opportunity to become a physician assistant through the IPAP located at the AMEDD Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

"The Army plans on filling the shortages by increasing the number of students in the IPAP - this year we are training 92 Army students versus 60," Jones said.

Graduates must pass the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam before they can provide healthcare to Soldiers, AMEDD officials said. There is also a new program called the Requirements Completion Course that is designed to help Soldiers complete the program's prerequisite courses. "This is another way that we are working to reduce the shortages while still maintaining the highest quality medical provider possible," said Jones.

"Army physician assistants are frontline medical responders," said Jones. "They are usually the first medical care that Soldiers receive before being transported to a hospital," he said. "They are a critical component of the Army."

Applications for the IPAP must be sent by Mar. 1 to the program manager at:

HQ, USAREC  
RCHS-SVD-PA  
1307 Third Ave.  
Fort Knox, KY 40121-2726

## McKiernan Sends #5-06

# Holiday weekend safety message

1. On 20 February 2006 our Nation will honor the great Americans who have served as President and Commander in Chief of our Armed Forces. As we remember our former leaders and enjoy some well-deserved time off over the Presidents Day holiday weekend, let us also remember to keep up our guard.

2. Many of you will take advantage of the long weekend to travel, participate in winter sports, or simply spend time with loved ones. Whatever you do, I ask that you keep safety in mind and use composite risk management when making your plans.

3. The fundamentals of composite risk management we use to plan a mission can also be used to plan our off-duty activities. This cyclical process is just as applicable to crossing the street as it is to moving a unit downrange:

□ Identify the hazards: Consider all aspects of current and future situations, environments, and known problem areas.

□ Assess the hazards to determine the risks: Assess the effect of each hazard in terms of potential loss.

□ Develop controls and make risk decisions: Develop control measures that eliminate the hazard or reduce its risk. As control measures are developed,

risks must be reevaluated until the residual risk is at a level where the benefits outweigh the cost.

□ Implement controls that eliminate the hazards or reduce their risks: Ensure the control measures are communicated to all involved.

□ Supervise and evaluate: Enforce standards and controls, evaluate the effectiveness of the controls, and revise the controls as necessary. The chain of command and our leaders at all ranks must lead from the front.

4. In addition to using composite risk management when planning your activities, I ask you to watch out for your battle buddies. No Loss of Life is our goal. Last fiscal year we lost 13 Soldiers to accidents. So far this fiscal year, we have lost seven members of our team to accidents and two others in alcohol-related incidents. This is an alarming trend, especially

considering that this is only the second quarter of the fiscal year. I need your assistance in reversing this trend and preserving our most precious asset: our Soldiers.

5. As each of you enjoys a safe and happy Presidents Day holiday weekend, remember that your Nation is very grateful for the sacrifices you are making in the Global War on Terrorism. So am I. I look forward to seeing all of you return safely to work after the holiday.



General David D. McKiernan  
CINC USAREUR

## McKiernan Sends #4-06

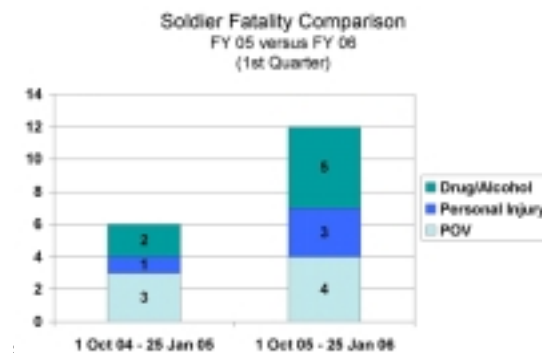
# Soldier, Family Readiness Alert

1. Several of our Soldiers recently died or were severely injured as a result of their high-risk behavior while off duty. Many of these Soldiers were suffering from stress or had a reputation for taking risks. In most of these cases, their leaders or battle buddies were aware that they needed help, but did not intervene effectively enough to prevent their loss.

2. The Army's Warrior Ethos states that we must never leave a fallen comrade. We must live by these words, both on and off the battlefield. This is especially important now while we are at war. Soldiers and their families are faced today with several stressors that can lead to negative attitudes and feelings, including alienation, bitterness, depression, grief, guilt, low self-esteem, rage, and self-pity. These feelings are fertile ground for the growth of problems such as alcohol abuse, drug use, spouse or child abuse, and acts of violence.

3. During the last 3 years, reported cases of drug use, family violence, financial problems, and incidents of anger and aggression have all increased in the Army in Europe. In addition, our fatality rate has risen very alarmingly over the past few months as shown in the chart below. We are leaving fallen comrades behind. We must take steps to reverse this trend.

□ Leaders: Spend time with your Soldiers, on duty as well as off, so that you understand their personal challenges and sources of stress. Increase your awareness of your Soldiers' activities and intervene quickly to modify risky behavior. Make sure your Soldiers and other leaders in your unit are aware of all available counseling services. Refer Soldiers who exhibit suicidal behavior to a chaplain, those who



social worker or to a family advocacy counselor, and those exhibiting signs of alcohol abuse to the Army Substance Abuse Program so that they can get help. These are just a few examples of the many services available to help Soldiers and their families. Your caring leadership will make a difference.

□ Soldiers: Always use the buddy system. Make it your priority to check on your battle buddies in the barracks or at home. If they are in trouble, maintain contact with them. Many tragedies have been prevented simply because someone took time to listen. If a problem is too big for you to handle, seek the help of your leaders. The care we show our fellow Soldiers both on and off duty sets our profession apart from others. The Army is a family; take care of your Army family as you would your own.

4. As the Global War on Terrorism continues, we can expect more deployments, family separations, and other challenges. It is therefore essential that we all remain vigilant and sensitive to those around us and take action to prevent high-risk behavior from resulting in tragedy.



# Tax centers open to serve Benelux



PHOTO: Cis Spook

The Northern Law Center recently opened two offices to prepare state and federal income tax returns for U.S. identification cardholders in the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux community.

The Northern Law Center, 21st Theater Support Command has opened two tax centers to serve the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux communities with offices located at Chièvres/Shape and USAG Brussels.

The tax centers, open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from now until June 1, offer free federal and state income tax return services to all U.S. identification cardholders.

Last year, the North Law Center produced over \$1.8 million in Internal Revenue Service refunds, thereby saving Soldiers, civilian employees, their families and other U.S. identification cardholders nearly \$202,000 in tax preparation costs and filing fees.

For those who opt to prepare their own tax returns using Army Knowledge On-line "Tax Wise" software, the Northern Law Office recommends having the tax return reviewed by representatives at either of the garrison tax centers.

## Northern Law Center

# Protecting 'high value' items during shipping

High value inventories are used by many household goods carriers to specifically identify your expensive items of property.

The "HiVal" inventory is in addition to the normal inventory, which reflects all the property you tender to the carrier for shipment. It is important that you understand your responsibilities in the use of this document and, in the event of missing property, the settlement of your claim.

Statistics indicate that the use of "Hi-Val" inventories have contributed to a reduction in claims for theft. Therefore, if you intend to ship property that is expensive and is a likely target for theft, then you should ensure that the carrier lists these items on the "Hi-Val" inventory.

For audio and video equipment the model number and serial number of the item must be listed. If you ship a collection of videotapes, CDs and DVDs, ensure that the number is counted and entered on the "Hi-Val" inventory. Make sure the packers indicate that the videotapes are pre-recorded.

Under the Personnel Claims Act (PCA), if you cannot establish loss of an original, prerecorded tape, you are entitled only to the depreciated value of a blank tape. As technology develops so fast, this policy will probably

affect CD's and DVD's in the near future (pre-recorded versus self-recorded). Ensure you have also a list of your videotapes, CD's and DVD's prepared before the shipment.

Similarly, if you are claiming the loss of expensive computer software, you are only entitled to the depreciated value of blank floppy disks unless it is established that the missing software was commercial by evidence such as the original software documentation, registration information, purchase receipts or other information.

At delivery, you will be requested to verify delivery of these items by signing this separate inventory. Before you sign a "Hi-Val" inventory, open every carton to visually verify receipt of the items. If you sign the "Hi-Val" inventory at delivery without taking exceptions for any missing items, you have acknowledged that you received the items. Failure to verify receipt at delivery could preclude a later claim for such an item if it is missing. Some carriers may request that you open these cartons even if you waive unpacking by the carrier. Please cooperate with this request. It is in your best interest.

Contact the claims personnel at the Northern Law Center, Building 318 on SHAPE, or call DSN 423-4195 for questions or additional information.

# Volunteers: A priceless resource

By Grace Cesonis

Army Volunteer Corps Coordinator

Volunteers are priceless.

While paid workers may or may not be highly motivated, volunteers are working for Army programs because they want to be there. They care about what they are doing and have a level of motivation which cannot be bought.

Some volunteers will only work for a day or a few weeks, while others may stay with the program and even-

tually become its backbone.

Volunteers are as varied as humanity itself and as valuable as many programs themselves. Volunteers should be treated as such. After all, even though they don't cost money, they aren't cheap.

Who are these valuable people who volunteer? They are your friends, your neighbors, and anyone in the community with the energy and skills you need who you can interest in your program. They are various ages and races. Each volunteer

is an individual and has special gifts to bring to an Army program.

Every volunteer gives their time and energy, but most are not looking for a 40-hour work week, although some work that and more depending upon the job.

Currently, volunteer positions are available at Grand Ma's Attic, Chièvres Library, Saltinis Foundation (A Lithuanian Orphanage supported by the community), Army Family Action Plan, and Army Community Service.

## About the

# Meteor-Heraut

The *Meteor-Heraut* is an authorized unofficial civilian enterprise newspaper published for the U.S. Army under AR 360-1 for U.S. military personnel in the Benelux nations under exclusive agreement between the USAG Benelux and AdvantiPro GmbH of Kaiserslautern, Germany, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense. Editorial content is provided by public affairs offices of the USAG Benelux, USAG Schinnen and USAG Brussels. Opinions expressed are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or the USAG Benelux. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DOD, the Department of the Army, or AdvantiPro GmbH of the products or services advertised.

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### Policy

- We encourage letters to the editor, but they must be signed. We will consider withholding the name of the author upon request. Letters regarding an issue should contribute to informational interest.
- We reserve the right to edit all material for style, to fit available space, to resolve libel, safety or force protection issues and to correct grammar.
- Submit articles in plain text and separate photographic files, but publication depends upon the judgment of the editor.
- Event announcements must use civilian dates and times. Spell out acronyms and include a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. We cannot reproduce prepared flyers in the *Meteor-Heraut*.

### Advertising

- Messages from readers from profit and non-profit organizations which involve money exchange constitutes advertising.
- Neither the *Meteor-Heraut* staff nor other public affairs personnel can accept advertising requests.
- The appearance of advertising, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services offered.
- Any gambling or lottery requiring payment for chance cannot be advertised as stated in 18 U.S.C. 1302.
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### Deadline

Copy and photographs are due by noon 11 calendar days before publication date.

### Commanders

Col. Dean A. Nowowiejski ..... USAG Benelux  
Lt. Col. Richard S. Richardson ..... USAG Schinnen  
Lt. Col. Patrick J. Kilroy ..... USAG Brussels  
Lt. Col. John G. Romero ..... Chièvres Garrison  
**Public Affairs officers and personnel**  
Marie-Lise Baneton ..... USAG Benelux  
Lauri Garcia..... USAG Schinnen  
Thad Moyseowicz ..... USAG Brussels  
Cis Spook ..... Chièvres Garrison  
J.D. Hardesty ..... Writer  
LaDonna Davis ..... Writer



## Meteor-Heraut Deadline and Publication Dates

Copy is due at noon

Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date	Deadline	Print Date
Feb. 13	Feb. 24	Mar. 13	Mar. 24	Apr. 10	Apr. 21	May 8	May 19
Feb. 27	Mar. 10	Mar. 27	Apr. 7	Apr. 24	May 5	May 30	June 2





## Chièvres Garrison...serving SHAPE/Chièvres communities

### Community Notes

#### Town Hall Meeting

Chièvres Garrison and the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux staff will host its quarterly Town Hall meeting for the Chièvres/SHAPE community Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. at Hotel Maisières. Everyone in the community is invited to attend.

#### Black History Month

Chièvres Garrison will celebrate Black History Month with special events slated throughout the month.

Luna Reggae Band will perform at the Prime Time Lounge Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. for a free concert, as well as an encore performance at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe Officer's Club Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

Additional events are being scheduled by the Special Emphasis Committee with announcements on the Chièvres web site.

#### AFTB Lunch Series

Armed Forces Team Building will host several classes over the next six weeks as follows:

**Adapting to Change:**

Feb. 22, noon to 1 p.m.

**Making the Most of Your Minutes:**  
Time Management and Meeting Management

Mar. 14, noon to 3 p.m.

**Group Dynamics**

Mar. 29, noon-1 p.m.

Advance registration is required. Limited childcare is available. To register for a class or find out more information call DSN: 423-5425, Civ: 065-44-5425 or email us at [aftbfamily@benelux.army.mil](mailto:aftbfamily@benelux.army.mil).

#### SHAPE Athletics

**Fun run**, Feb. 21, registration 15 minutes prior to the run, Call 423-3993 for more information.

**Ten-pin bowling**, Feb. 22. For more information, call 423-4717.

#### SHAPE Ed. Center

The SHAPE Education center is offering a free Headstart language classes in French Feb. 13-24 from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The classes are mandatory for military members and open to all members of the SHAPE community on a space available basis. There is also a field trip on the final day. Call 423-3466 for more information.

#### Technology class

The Using SharePoint Technologies for Knowledge Works calss scheduled for Feb. 22 in Chièvres currently has 15 seats available. Students interested in attending the class should register on-line at [www.ushareur.army.mil/classes.aspx?ClassID=3975](http://www.ushareur.army.mil/classes.aspx?ClassID=3975).

## Teaming against catastrophe

### Keeping communities safe

Representatives from the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux recently visited the Civil Protection unit located in Ghlin, Belgium, as Commandant Paddy Dubois, civil protection chief, explained the duties and structure of the unit and how they would augment the fire department to limit flooding and protect residents during any catastrophe.

While giving a tour of the facility, Dubois explained that, in case of a mass casualty incident on or off local USAG Benelux installations, the Ghlin Civil Protection would be called upon if specialized mobile equipment is needed to control the situation, evacuate victims and protect the environment.

PHOTO: Cis Spook

(Right) Commandant Paddy Dubois, civil protection chief, describes how the Ghlin, Belgium unit would deploy specialized mobile equipment in case of a catastrophe.

(Below) Dubois identifies a high capacity water hose which can be connected to one of the unit's container trucks.



PHOTO: Cis Spook

Gérald Moortgat, deputy at the Hainaut Province Government in charge of Agriculture and Finance, visited the Chièvres Garrison on Jan. 27. Moortgat said he learned how the garrison supports the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. He was surprised to hear some farmers still own land on Chièvres Air Base. Pictured (l-r): Christina Dupont, Gérald Moortgat, Lt. Col. John Romero, Maria Romero and Marino Bortoli.

## Fitness Center expands youth utilization policy

The Fitness Center on Chièvres Air Base recently revamped its youth utilization policy to better meet the needs of the community.

According to recent guidance established by the Installation Management Agency-Europe and implemented by the U.S. Army Garrison Benelux Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation:

- All Soldiers and adults 19 years and older will have full use of the facilities and equipment;
- Persons 16 to 18 years old may use the Fitness Center facilities and equipment with the exception of saunas;
- Those 12 to 15 years may use the multi-purpose courts, indoor running track, cardiovascular and weight rooms with the direct interactive participation/supervision of a parent, legal guardian or a youth program coach or school teacher. Sauna use is not permitted under any circumstances;
- Youth 11 years and younger are not permitted in the Fitness Center under any circumstances, however, they may

use the multi-purpose courts and indoor running track with direct interactive participation/supervision of a parent, legal guardian, youth program coach or school teacher.

Under the old policy, youth 16 years and older were allowed full use of the fitness center, those age 13 to 15 years needed direct supervision and 12 years and under were not permitted.

"Upon reviewing the policy, we felt the changes would be a better service to the community," said Harry Geesaman, community recreation officer for MWR. "The policy changes more clearly define the regulations so youth can use the Fitness Center facilities originally created for Soldiers and adults."

According to Geesaman, the new policy applies to the Fitness Center area (Cardiovascular room, weight training room, locker rooms and sauna) and does not include the Community Activity Center multi-purpose area when it is used for community activities."



## USAG Schinnen...serving the tri-border community

### USO Tour LaMafia a toe-tapping performance

By LaDonna Davis

Grammy Award winning band, LaMafia, kept U.S. and NATO I.D. cardholders and their family members singing, dancing and tapping their toes during a performance held at the Schinnen sports center Jan. 31 as part of a United Service Organization tour.

LaMafia, a Houston based Latin band, is best known for their unique style, crossing contemporary pop sounds with traditional Mexican influences.

This marks the band's first European USO tour, though they performed for troops stationed at Fort Carlson, Colo. in November.

"We've wanted to do this (USO tour) since the early 90's, but we just couldn't find the right connections to get in," said lead singer Oscar de la Rosa. "Finally, this past year, one of the members of the group, Armando, was able to make the connections."

The band has been performing for people around the world for more than two decades promoting their albums, but when they heard about other groups performing in front of troops as part of USO tours, they decided they too wanted a piece of the action.

"You hear so much about it (USO) from other artist from what you see on T.V.," said Rosa. "And we felt that some of the Latino's were being left out and we wanted to be a part of reaching the Latin community, the Latin military."

"But, it's not just for them," Keyboardist David de la Garza interjects. "It's for everyone, we have everyone coming out to the shows, whether they know our music or not. They're just happy to be there and to know that someone's out here and they know that people care for them back home. We're really proud to be American, and we're behind our troops the whole way."

LaMafia first released their debut album in 1981; however, it wasn't until their first release on CBS International/Sony Records that skyrocketed the group to stardom.

The group received numerous accolades, including the 1996 and 1997 Grammy Award for "Best Mexican-American/Tejano Music Performance and most recently, in 2005 won a Latin Grammy Award for best Group Album.

"I grew up around Texas, and first heard LaMafia when I



Latin band, LaMafia, performs for U.S. and NATO ID cardholders during a USO tour at USAG Schinnen Jan. 31.

PHOTOS: LaDonna Davis

was about 12 or 15 years old," said Rosie VanDuyne, an attendee at the show. "But tonight was just 'wow', they were fabulous, they've definitely grown as a group."

Though LaMafia was the main attraction during the evening, they didn't hog the entire spotlight. During their performance, LaMafia invited fans to come up on stage and sing any song they wanted to while the band backed them up.



Karaoke queen, Rosa VanDuyne, sings her own rendition of the song "Elvira," and got to live out her life-long dream of performing with a real band during the LaMafia USO tour.

VanDuyne jumped at the chance to do her own version of "Elvira." "I do karaoke a lot," she said. This was like a dream come true (to sing with the group). This was absolutely...wow!"

"One thing we are doing in this tour is we're not doing what we normally do," says Rosa. "We want to let the people be a part of what we're doing, we want them to have a good time, to come up and sing, and just feel like they're part of a big family."

## 2 DoD programs provide equality for all

Equal Opportunity and Equal Employment Opportunity are two U.S. domestic programs which prevent discriminatory practices from taking place in fields that should be freely available to all citizens.

It is Department of Defense policy that all Army Installations have an effective EO and EEO program in place, and that all employees have a source for information and reporting if they feel as if EO or EEO has been violated.

EEO is designed to assist and protect the civilians supporting the Army and DoD, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Like the EEO program, the EO program has similar goals. The difference between the two lies in the fact that EO is geared towards the quality of life U.S.

Army employees. Both programs ensure equal opportunity in all aspects for Army civilian employees and/or the community regardless of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, physical or mental ability, medical condition, ancestry, or age.

The goal of the Schinnen EO program is to provide equal opportunity for military personnel, civilians, and family members both on and off post and within the limits of the law of localities, states and host nations.

USAG Schinnen's EEO and EO programs have a complaint process that is in accordance with Army regulations for employees who feel they've been discriminated against based on race, gender, color, age, sex, religion, national origin, physical or mental ability, or

medical condition.

To file an EEO complaint in accordance with AR 690-600, Schinnen employees or applicants for employment who feel they have been discriminated against should contact the Schinnen EEO office within 45 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory act for assignment of an EEO counselor.

To file an EO complaint in accordance with AR 600-20, Schinnen employees who feel they have been discriminated against have 60 days to file a complaint with the EO office.

To file an EO complaint or for additional information, contact Sgt. 1st Class David Williams at 360-7534.

To file an EEO complaint or for additional information Jerry Francis at 360-7445.

### One-stop shop Kiosks make life easier

By LaDonna Davis

Self-service kiosk from Dyna Touch Corporation are giving USAG Schinnen personnel and family members a less stressful, more efficient way to receive military, and civilian related information from an all inclusive system.

The first of six Army One-Stop information kiosks was installed in the lobby of the headquarters building Jan. 24. The other five are scheduled to be strategically placed in the Army Air Force Exchange Service lobby, the Bowling Center, Department of Public Works, Treebeek Education Center, and the AFNORTH Library, by the end of Feb. A kiosk will also be making its way to Rotterdam's 598<sup>th</sup> Transportation Terminal Group.

"The kiosks provide one-stop shopping geared towards the U.S. Army, but also services other branches as well," said Mike Head, an information technician specialist at Schinnen. "The kiosks provide a single-point access portal to services and information for military, civilians, and family members."

By providing information regarding housing, lodging, and family services in addition to real-time access to service specific sites like My Pay and AKO Online, all of Schinnen's employees and family members will be able to view duty essential information.



PHOTO: LaDonna Davis

USAG Schinnen employees install the first of six Army One-Stop kiosks in the Schinnen headquarters lobby Jan.27.

### AFAP gears up

The Army Family Action Plan conference at USAG Schinnen will be held Feb. 16 and 17. The conference is open all U.S. and NATO identification cardholders and gives participants a chance to express quality of life issues and concerns. Those issues will then be forwarded to community leadership so that they can be resolved. For more information, contact ACS at 443-7500.



## USAG Brussels...serving the tri-mission community

### Brussels American School

# Phi Delta Kappa International visits DoDDS

By Thad Moyseowicz

The Brussels American School (BAS) recently hosted a number of area educators in conjunction with the visit by Dr. Jo Ann Fujioka to the various Benelux components of Phi Delta Kappa International.

Fujioka is the president of this international organization comprised of professional educators.

Benelux Chapter 1429 President Bobbie Greenawald, a BAS teacher, explained that Phi Delta Kappa's charter is to promote research, leadership and service in the field of education. The international organization is particularly interested in promoting public education and enhancing its quality. Its local chapter furthers that goal and annually awards scholarships to youth in the Benelux area.

Fujioka had a very busy itinerary visiting the various components of the Benelux Chapter. "Our Chapter was very honored to host the PDK International president visit to our region," remarked Greenawald. "This was the first time in many years that the president of PDK has visited European chapters."

Brussels served as the operating hub for Fujioka's visit. Following her arrival in Brussels, Greenawald escorted Fujioka to the SHAPE schools on Feb. 2, the Chapter's vice president for programs. Although time was limited, she met with Kevin Brewer, SHAPE High



PHOTO: Courtesy Brussels American School

Dr. Jo Ann Fujioka, international president of Phi Delta Kappa, (left) Lynda Simmons, Isles District assistant superintendent and Dr. Lee Hill BAS counselor and newly inducted PDK member during Fujioka's visit to schools in the Benelux.

School principal, and was further escorted through SHAPE Elementary by Al Schertzing. Future Educators of American students showed Fujioka some classrooms and programs. She experienced students at work in Read 180, PE, AVID, Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, drama, band, art, home economics, and in various classroom settings.

After an interview with AFN, Fujioka chaired the highlight of the morning — a working lunch with FEA students.

The future teachers asked her to address issues related to "No Child Left Behind," integrated curriculum, misrepresentation of test scores, the status of education in the United States, PDK and its purpose, as well as job opportunities for prospective educators.

Student reactions to the visit were very positive. Doug O'Meara and Noelle Grace Ochintang will have a chance to continue their discussions with her at the FEA Annual Conference

in Garmisch, Germany, Feb. 6-8.

Dr. Fujioka spent the afternoon of Feb. 2 at Brussels American School, visiting classes with Assistant Principal, Cheryl Aeillo, and an office call visit with Principal, Dr. Debby Berry. A reception was held for Fujioka after school in the BAS Library. A highlight of this event was the induction of Dr. Lee Hill, BAS guidance counselor, into the Chapter. Linda Curtis, Department of Defense Dependent Schools, Isles District superintendent and adviser to the Benelux board, attended along with Lynda Simmons, assistant superintendent.

At the reception, Fujioka spoke on the changes made since 2000 in Phi Delta Kappa and the changes that are still needed. She also spoke on the importance of the organization in a global society in advocating quality public education. Her final topic was the organization's plan to promote a mentoring program whereby individuals would be trained and certified as expert mentors.

On Feb. 3 Dr. Fujioka attended International Day at St. John's International School in Waterloo, Belgium. She met with Elementary Principal Johannah Bambridge, who is a Benelux board member. Then she met with other school administrators and Phi Delta Kappa Members to discuss PDK and how the organization could better serve the international community. The staff conducted a tour of the school facility and she had the opportunity to observe their annual International Day celebrating the 60 different nationalities that attend St. John's International School.

## Army Family Action Plan hears community voices

The AFAP program offers a way for service members and families to let their leadership know what works, what doesn't... and what could fix it!

A bottom-up, grassroots process that improves the quality of life for military communities worldwide, the program has identified 589 well-being concerns to senior leaders since 1984 spawning nearly 300 legislative, regulative or policy changes to improve Army programs and services.

With the joint services supported by U.S. Army Garrison Brussels, the program is typically billed as the Armed Forces Action Plan so everyone in the community can participate in the process.

AFAP helps keep benefits, entitlements, services and programs in balance with changing times and needs, as well as, with the specific demands of military life in Brussels.

Just a few examples of the program's success are the military savings plan, retiree and reserve component dental plans, annual adjustment to clothing allowances, the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS) program and Family Readiness groups.

Suggestions from Brussels community members are a critical part of the process as participants can

document and submit solutions to issues affecting their quality of life. Those suggestions become a part of the annual "Brussels Tri-mission community AFAP Forum" run by Army Community Service in March.

Community members supporting NATO Headquarters, NATO Health or Dental Clinics, USAG Garrison Brussels, the Canadian Military Community, U.S. Embassies to the European Union or to the Kingdom of Belgium, Brussels American School, or other garrison tenants can have their voice be heard!

The AFAP forum in Brussels is open to all active duty service members and their families, national guard and reservists and all federal civilian employees.

There are three ways to participate in the Brussels AFAP Program: Submitting an issue, being a delegate or volunteering.

### Submitting an issue

To submit and issue it must contain a title, scope and a maximum of three recommended solutions. Anyone reading the submitted issue for the first time should understand what the problem is, why it's a problem, and what you think will solve the problem. Issue submission forms are available throughout the year at ACS, emailed to all members of the commu-

nity, downloadable from the Brussels web site at [www.brussels.army.mil](http://www.brussels.army.mil) as of January, publicized in the Brussels Weekly in February, and located by each of the blue drop-off boxes in place until the submission deadline.

The "top issues" are forwarded to the lead agencies for resolution.

### Being a delegate

Delegates are designated by agencies to represent a cross-section of the whole Brussels Tri-mission community. Interested community members may also fill out a delegate registration form available from ACS. Anyone can be a delegate at the next forum, but delegates can only serve for one forum to insure new ideas are brought into the process. There is also training and staff support offered for delegates.

### Volunteering

The AFAP support team is made of all the "make it happen" volunteers without whom hosting the Annual Brussels community AFAP conference would not be possible. To participate in our next Brussels AFAP forum contact the Brussels ACS program analyst and AFAP coordinator at DSN 368-964, Civ: 02 717-9643.



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